REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending.

Claim 3 has been amended based on, for example, page 10 lines 1-4 of the specification.

No new matter has been added, and the entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has crossed out the entire PTO/SB/08 form, which indicated that the Examiner has not considered the cited references. Generally, the International Bureau forwards the references to the USPTO. However, the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 2, 2006 are being resubmitted herewith along with a copy of the PTO-1449 Form for the Examiner's convenience. In this regard, it is noted that JP 8-302080 was cited in an IDS filed on July 22, 2008.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Akita (JP 08-302080 A) in view of Cannelongo (U.S. Patent No. 6,193,990) and Bradt (U.S. Patent No. 5,627,218).

The Examiner alleges that Akita discloses an olefin-based resin composition comprising an insecticide and two polymers, one with high solubility (low density polyethylene, LDPE) and one with low solubility for the insecticide (high density polyethylene, HDPE). Akita additionally discloses use of inorganic fillers. Akita does not disclose a metal soap, whereas Cannelongo teaches adding a metal soap (such as zinc stearate) to the resin composition.

Also, the Examiner claims that Akita does not teach a pellet containing strata. However, this deficiency is cured by Bradt who teaches a process for production of zoned thermoplastic pellets. In addition, Bradt teaches that the strata may contain different polymers, such as a polyester and polystyrene. Bradt teaches such multi-layered resin pellet forms that "do not rub off or separate to contaminate storage units, conveying devices of feed hoppers."

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the following remarks.

The present invention is featured by "a two-layered olefin-based resin pellet for use in an insecticidal resin composition comprising a core layer formed on an olefin-based resin composition (A) and a sheath layer formed of an olefin-based resin composition (B) and laminated on the outer surface of the core layer, wherein said olefin-based composition (A) contains an insecticidal compound, a granular inorganic filler, a metal soap, and an olefin-based resin (a) having a relatively high solubility to the insecticidal compound; and said olefin-based resin composition (B) contains, as a main component, an olefin-based resin (b) having a relatively low solubility to the insecticidal compound", as is described in Claim 1.

The present invention is especially characterized by the feature that the two-layered olefin-based resin pellet comprises a core layer formed of an olefin-based resin composition (A) and a sheath layer formed of an olefin-based resin composition (B) and laminated on the outer surface of the core layer.

Regarding Bradt, in the thermoplastic pellets, reactants are placed in different zones of different resin pellets, and the reactants placed in the different zones commence a chemical reaction at the time of melt-mixing so that molecular size of the molded product is increased and physical properties thereof is enhanced (see column 1, lines 5-15).

For example, when a pellet containing a polystyrene zone which dissolves an unsaturated polyester resin and a polystyrene zone which dissolves benzol peroxide is melt-mixed and injection molded, the oplyester crosslinks with the unterminated polystyrene and gives molded products with enhanced properties (see column 6, lines 15-27).

Further, when another material with one zone of a strand of polyethylene containing a substituted phenol and the other zone containing a polyethylenesoluble aldehyde is molded, the resultant phenolic lattice provides rigidity, dimensional stability and improved tensile strength (see column 6, lines 28-38).

In contrast, the present invention does not place reactants, which react with each other, in different zones, i.e. a core layer and a sheath layer. In the present invention, an insecticidal compound is placed in the core layer. The insecticidal compound in the core layer is not intended to react with the other compound in the sheath layer. It is apparent that the invention disclosed in Bradt is completely different in its purpose, features and effects from the present invention. In addition, Bradt does not specifically describe or suggest the use of insecticidal compounds. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Bradt with Akita, to arrive at the claimed invention.

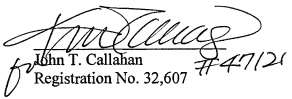
The Examiner alleges that Cannelongo teaches adding an inorganic filler (such as barium sulfate) and a metal soap (such as zinc stearate). However, Cannelongo does not specifically teach or suggest pellets containing strata. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Cannelongo with Akita, to arrive at the claimed invention.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1-6 over Akita in view of Cannelongo and Bradt.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 4, 2008